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CRC

Convention on the
Rights of the Child

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Item 5 of the provisional agenda

ELECTION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 43 OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD, OF FIVE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD, TO REPLACE THOSE WHOSE TERMS ARE DUE TO EXPIRE ON 28 FEBRUARY 2003

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

The present addendum contains revised biographical data on the candidature below which replaces the information contained in annex III of document CRC/SP/33.

Name of candidate	Nominated by
Awich POLLAR	Uganda

Annex

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA OF NOMINEE

Captain Awich POLLAR

DATE OF BIRTH:	8 October 1970
Nationality:	Ugandan
Working language:	English

Educational background:

2000	Law Development Centre, Postgraduate diploma in legal practice (Bar course),Trained in Parliamentary legal procedures and draftsmanship.
1999	Makerere University, Bachelor of Laws (LLB) Honours;
1995	Kampala, Trained in HIV/AIDS, counselling to help child soldiers

At 13 years of age, I left school and became a child soldier in 1983. Pursuant to the Government's policy of demobilization of child soldiers and re-integrating them into schools and the society, I like many other ex-child soldiers, returned to primary school in 1986.

Professional experience:

1999 to date:	Practiced law for three years in one of the principal organs of Government. Engaged in establishing Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms (ADR) in legal matters concerning child soldiers faced with litigation.
	Provided Legal Aid Services to children in Family Courts.
2000	Re-joined the National Army and promoted to the rank of Captain
1995	Organized and mobilized children to present their views during the Constitutional Review Commission.
1992	Was instrumental in presenting children's views (advocacy) leading to the enactment of the Child Statute of Uganda, following the Uganda National Programme of Action for Children (UNPAC)

1983-86 **Experience as a child soldier (1983-1985):**

- As a child soldier, was the commander in charge evacuation of children and women to safe areas behind the battle lines.

- Was supervisor of the distribution of food to children and women behind the battle lines.

- Commander of immunization exercise at one time during the war.

- Actively participated as Commander of the guards of humanitarian centers like hospitals during the war.

Post-armed conflict experience:

2002 Organized and mobilized ex-child soldiers from other belligerent organizations during peace talks, Uganda National Rescue Front II (UNRFII)

2002 Counselled other ex-child soldiers who were reporting to the Government of Uganda.

1992-95 Was a research assistant to many organizations internationally in carrying out research on child soldiers (UNICEF and Network of Researchers and Research Users of Uganda (NURU)).

1987 Picked as a peer child soldier to discourage other children from joining the rebel forces.

1986-87 Conducted mass-media campaigns for child soldiers to go back to school.

1986–87 Led the operation of screening child soldiers from army units nationwide to return them to school.

1986-to date Strong advocacy for the rights of child soldiers.

1986-95 Became the liaison officer for the child soldiers after we had returned to school.

1986-90 Was instrumental in helping ex-child soldiers locate their families and homes after the armed organized and mobilized ex-child soldiers from other belligerents during peace talks on conflict. This was a very difficult and lengthy exercise since many did not know where they came from.
Led a committee that negotiated with hostile communities to accept ex-child soldiers to be re-integrated in their localities.

1987-88 Ran television and radio programmes to discourage children from getting into the armed forces.

Accomplishments

- Chairman of Makerere University counselling group to erase the social stigma against child soldiers.
- Over 2000 child soldiers returned to school; many are professionals and university graduates and 80 per cent completed high school.